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Bush questions oversight consolidation plans

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WASHINGTON — Central Intelligence Agency Director George Bush of Dallas Thursday said he is not sure the newly created Senate Intelligence Committee will result in consolidated oversight of the nation's intelligence gathering agencies.

Bush said "it might be the first step in the right direction," but added that he is concerned that he may have to continue to make numerous appearances before the various committees which have jurisdiction over the intelligence agencies.

"I've been in this job . . . close to four months, and I have made 24 official appearances on the hill, and each one of these requires a certain amount of prebriefing; each one requires a certain amount of follow up," Bush said at a Bicentennial salute to Texas breakfast.

"That is an enormous amount of time to spend testifying before congressional committees. That's a fairly large number of appearances when you have the responsibility of running something as important as the intelligence community."

Bush said that he is "not overly optimistic that the creation of the new committee will cut down on the num-

bers of visits to the hill that the director of central intelligence must make." Bush said that he will work closely with the Senate committee, and that once committee chairman Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii, has had an opportunity to get his staff organized Bush will speak with the senator about decreasing the number of appearances required of the CIA director.

"I'm not going to defend things in the past that were wrong . . . but neither am I going to dwell on those things that are wrong. I find it a waste of my time to go back and answer outrageous charges such as did the Central Intelligence Agency give \$1 million to Tom Dewey in 1948 with a director appointed by Harry Truman and expenditures never in that range of funds for the whole agency," Bush said.

"If I answered every outlandish, outrageous charge printed and then picked up and reprinted, nobody would be minding the store," Bush said, adding that he does not intend to do that.

He said that if "somebody wants to grovel around and spend his time worrying about the excesses of the past, then fine, we'll respond, properly, correctly, through spokesmen. But as director I'm not going to waste my time when you've had a year and a half study by the Senate committee and a year and a half study by the House committee on spending all my time looking over my shoulder."